

THE
Borough of Daventry



REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
FOR THE YEAR
1944

OCTOBER, 1945.

BOROUGH OF DAVENTRY.

Members of the Public Health Committee.

Councillor L. S. Swan (chairman), His Worship Alderman J. Denney (vice-chairman), Alderman J. C. Boardman, Alderman W. T. Kilsby, Councillors D. C. Arnall, W. E. Bird, T. Davis, A. T. Knight, and W. R. Neal.

Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health:

C. T. DARWENT,
L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H., F.R.San.I.
(Temporary.)

D. J. JONES,
(On Active Service.)

Sanitary Inspector—Meat Inspector:

FRANK BAILEY,
A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,
Certificated Food Inspector, Royal Sanitary Institute.

Mr. Bailey is also acting as Rate Collector and Valuation Officer during the war.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary circumstances of the Borough for 1944.

My efforts during the year have been sustained by the advice and help received from the members of the Public Health Committee and by the close co-operation of my Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Bailey.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

C. T. DARWENT,
Medical Officer of Health.

Area.

The area of the Borough is 3,633 acres.

Population.

The population of the Borough by the Census of 1931 was 3,608; Males 1,783, Females 1,825. The population by the Census of 1921 was 3,518, giving a net increase of 90 persons during the ten years. The population to-day is estimated to be 3,829.

Inhabited Houses.

The number of inhabited houses is 1,088.

Rateable Value.

The Rateable Value of the Borough at 31-12-44 is £26,216.

Sum represented by a penny rate.

The sum represented by a penny rate (net) is £104 12s. 6d.

Health of the Inhabitants.

The health of the inhabitants, with the exception of an outbreak of measles during November and December, was good. Only three other cases of infectious sickness (excluding Tuberculosis) were notified.

Birth Rate.

The number of live Births registered in the Town during the year was 63; Males 29, Females 34. 27 Males and 30 Females were legitimate, 2 Males and 4 Females being illegitimate. The birth rate for the Borough being 16.4 per 1,000 of estimated population, against 17.6 per 1,000 for the whole of England and Wales. There was one still-birth, a legitimate male, and this gives a still-birth rate of .26 for the Borough, against .50 for England and Wales.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age.

Three males and one female, all legitimate, died during their first year and this gives a death-rate of 63 per 1,000 live births for the Borough, against a similar rate of 46 per 1,000 for the whole of England and Wales.

Death Rate.

The number of deaths registered in the Town was 47; Males 25, Females 22. This gives a death-rate of 12.2 per 1,000 of estimated population, against 11.6 for the whole of England and Wales.

Mortality.

The mortality from different causes during the year was as follows:

	Males	Females	Total
Respiratory Tuberculosis ...	2	1	3
Other Tuberculosis ...	0	0	0
Cancer of Stomach, etc. ...	1	0	1
Cancer of Buc Cavity and Oesophagus	0	1	1
Cancer of all other sites ...	1	5	6
Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions	6	4	10
Heart Disease ...	10	6	16
Bronchitis ...	1	1	2
Pneumonia ...	0	1	1
Diarrhoea under 2 years ...	0	1	1
Other Digestive Diseases ...	0	1	1
Premature Birth ...	1	0	1
Con. Mal. Birthing ...	2	0	2
All Other Causes ..	1	1	2
	25	22	47

Tuberculosis Deaths.

Pulmonary.				Non-Pulmonary.	
Male	Age	Female	Age	Male	Female
1	56	1	21		Nil.
1	18				

New Cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year.

Pulmonary.				Non-Pulmonary.	
Male	Age	Female	Age	Male	Female
1	18	1	22		Nil.
1	56	1	24		

There was also a case of a Female aged 73 who was notified as Generalised Tuberculosis.

The Female aged 22 was an inward transfer.

Infant Welfare and Nursing Facilities.

There is a Child Welfare Centre in the Town at the Foundry Place Schools on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. The Doctor attends on the fourth Tuesday of each month and children can be immunised on this day. This and the Health Visiting are under the supervision of the County Council.

The District Nursing arrangements, which are maintained by voluntary contribution, are managed by a Local Committee. This Committee is affiliated to the Northamptonshire County Nursing Association.

Infectious Sickness.

During the year 1944 there were 146 cases of Infectious Sickness notified:—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	3
Generalised	"	...	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	1
Measles...	...	...	139
			<hr/> 146

The case of Generalised Tuberculosis was a woman of 72 years of age and the case was notified shortly before death.

There was also one inward transfer of Pulmonary Tuberculosis. Two of the Pulmonary cases, both males, and the Generalised case died before the end of the year.

No case of Diphtheria occurred during the year, this being the third year the Borough has been free from this disease.

No case of Small Pox, Enteric Fever, or Ophthalmic Neonatorum occurred in the Borough during the year.

In all cases of Infectious Sickness the homes are visited, all requisite enquiries made, and disinfection is carried out. The bedding is always destroyed after a death from Tuberculosis or Cancer, and the owners compensated for the loss. Infectious Disease cases, where necessary, are removed to the Western Joint Hospital Board's Infectious Hospital at Staverton. Tuberculosis cases, where suitable, are received at Rushden Sanatorium or at the Manfield Hospital.

For non-infectious illnesses the Northampton General Hospital or the Hospital of St. Cross, Rugby, are usually used by the inhabitants of the Town. A St. John Ambulance is kept in the Town to convey patients to either of these premises.

Diphtheria.

No case has occurred in the Town since 1941.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Children are immunised at the Infant Welfare Centre on the fourth Tuesday of each month and at the School Medical Inspection Sessions at the Schools.

Application for immunisation should be made to the Health Visitor, Nurse Waugh, Long Buckby, Rugby, or to the Medical Officer of Health or Sanitary Inspector at the Moot Hall, Daventry.

Number of Immunisations completed during 1944 :

Under 5, 42 5 to 15, 4 Total 46.

Number of children considered Immunised at 31-12-44

Under 5.	5 to 15.	Total.	Percentage Immunised.	
			Under 5.	5 to 15.
160	510	670	59 per cent.	82 per cent.

Scabies.

There were 10 cases reported during the year in three houses. Five were removed to the Public Assistance Institution and treated. The other cases were treated at home under the supervision of the Doctor. All beds, etc., were passed through the steam disinfecter, the rooms were disinfected.

Water Supply.

The Water Supply of the houses is from the Town Supply. All water before entering the mains is softened by the Sofnol process and chlorinated. Samples are taken at frequent intervals and no unsatisfactory reports were received during the year.

Main Drainage.

All Houses in the Borough, with the exception of a few outlying ones and houses on the West side of the By-pass on the Badby Road, are connected to the Sewer. It is impossible to connect the last-mentioned houses to the existing sewers without installing pumps to lift the sewage to the level of existing sewers.

Housing.

I recommended that when the war is over and the Officers can give more time to house inspection, a thorough housing survey must be completed. There is a considerable proportion of the property in the Borough which is old, unsightly, and has served its useful purpose, and must be

condemned as unfit for human habitation. Many properties are in such a state of dis-repair as to classify them as unsafe for habitation. Where to begin and where to end such a Housing Survey will be a difficult proposition, as houses which can be repaired at reasonable cost are intermingled with and built on to houses which should, in my opinion, have come under the condemnation axe many years ago.

Owing to the shortage of both men and building material it has been found most difficult to get repairs carried out. After a severe storm many roofs were left defective for a long time, and the smaller and older houses are now showing the effects of this shortage during the past five years.

Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts ...	121
Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	183
Number of dwelling-houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit	62
Number remedied by service of Preliminary Notice ...	54
Number remedied after service of Statutory Notice ...	12

Public Health Acts.

Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served	11
Number where defects were remedied by owners	11

Overcrowding.

As this is a Reception Area and a considerable number of Evacuees were brought into the Town, a certain amount of overcrowding took place. Several houses are still overcrowded, but the matter will be remedied when it is possible to build more houses.

Owing to shortage of water, and the water being cut off for several hours in each 24, more trouble was experienced with the drains than in a normal year. A great number were blocked, but the Council's employees cleared those as rapidly as possible and no outbreak of illness occurred.

Eighteen new W.C. pans were fixed and 34 flushes repaired.

Food.

During the year the following food has been surrendered as being unfit:

430 lbs. Fish.

12 lbs. imported Pork.

270 lbs. home killed Beef, etc.

The following tins of food were badly blown or defective and the contents were unfit for human consumption. The tins were surrendered and destroyed.

102 tins of Milk.

135 tins Meat, Fish, Vegetables and Soups, etc.

Over 470 lbs. of Oranges were surrendered and destroyed.

Milk Samples.

During the year 23 samples of Milk were taken and forwarded to Northampton for examination. Eleven were of Pasteurised Milk and twelve Raw Milk. Nine of the Pasteurised samples were returned as satisfactory and two as Fail. Both these samples were produced and pasteurised outside the Town. Nine of the Raw samples were returned as good, two as moderate, and one as bad.

On receipt of a bad report, the premises where the milk is produced and handled are visited at once if situated within the Borough. If produced outside the Borough the matter is brought to the Sanitary Inspector of the district where the milk is produced.

All Bakehouses, Butchers' Shops and premises where food is prepared, Cowsheds and Dairies are visited at frequent intervals and are generally found to be in a satisfactory state.

Rats and Mice Destruction.

During the year poison has been handed out to any responsible person who has applied for it.

The Sewers were baited in all parts of the Town but not a single bait was taken.



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